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LINK-UP

DUBLIN AND MUNSTER PRESBYTERY
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MAURICE AND HELEN KENNEDY
Lucan Youth Centre

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A NOTE FROM THE HONORARY EDITOR

Some readers may have noticed that of the people who sent in material for the June issue (Bulletin No. 6) six, or nearly fifty per cent, were women. All their contributions were of a high standard and required little or no editing. Some material is still submitted in manuscript however and this usually has to be typed. The editorial (and indeed the distribution) function being a one-person effort, this work devolves on your faithful servant. If all contributors could submit 'copy' ready for the printer miscopying and typing errors on my part might be avoided and the work of getting the Bulletin ready much expedited. This would also give our printers, who have been most indulgent and co-operative these past two years, more time to set up the 'copy', to prepare a first and second set of proofs for correction, to fold, trim and stitch the finished product and to put it into bundles of twenty-five before delivery.

Once again I have to bring to the notice of ministers, clerks of session, committee members and congregational correspondents that contributors to the Bulletin are getting fewer — this in spite of exhortations at Presbytery to send in notes and articles by the closing date. The Bulletin can survive only if there is enough material on hand to fill each issue. It is not feasible to send out reminders about the closing date for receipt of material. I regret to have to say that there are a number of congregations in the Presbytery from whom we have never once received notes.

... ..

Our guest contributor and the author of our main article in this issue is Helen Kennedy, who with her husband Maurice runs the Lucan Youth Centre, whose work she here describes. Helen's succinct account, for which we are most grateful, will doubtless be of interest to all who have care of and concern for the young, as well as to young people themselves.

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LUCAN AND WHAT WE DO THERE

As many will have already observed from the photograph which is decorating the front of this magazine, neither my husband nor I are in what could be called our first flush of youth. Rather, we come under that category of couple, known as early-birds, my husband having retired from business at the advanced age of

53. However, we have also been referred to as geriatrics — and so we have taken it a step further, and call ourselves the geriatric dynamos, working at Lucan Youth Centre under the auspices of the Youth Board of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Yes, I did say Ireland. We still come across those people who often think that the Presbyterian Church ends at Newry, some even think it can exist no further than Ballymena, but the Holy Spirit and our Father in heaven does not recognize borders, so why should we?

Maurice and I are Northerners. Our call to serve God in Lucan came one lovely Sunday morning in May 1991. God often uses different people as His instrument to call people to serve Him. So it was with us. The person used in our instance was Rev. Dr Trevor Morrow, minister of Lucan Presbyterian Church and our former assistant in Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church, where we had worshipped with our family for almost 23 years. Towards the end of an enthralling sermon Trevor spoke of the need for people to work in the Republic of Ireland, more as an encouragement for the Church in general, and, in our own case, Lucan in particular. He asked if anyone in the congregation was thinking of retiring that perhaps their gifts and skills could be usefully recognized in ongoing work either within the Church or in other areas. He also said something which struck home: 'Put your aspirations in a higher authority, forget about your allegiance to a political dream, no matter how valid, and come and serve Jesus Christ — perhaps even come to the Republic of Ireland'.

At the end of the service we all stood up to sing the final hymn and from my seat in the choir box I glanced sideways over to my husband — where he was dodging around the pillar to find my eye. All it took was one quick, decisive, quiet nod of the head. There have been more miraculous calls to serve God, I know, but so far as we were concerned God had spoken to us in a very particular way, and we were ready to go.

That morning, we did not know if there was a job to come to, but our God is a wonderful provider. The Youth Board were looking for someone with marketing and administration skills to look after their three youth centres. Maurice had been an engineer with Northern Ireland Electricity since graduation and he had marketing qualifications also, and had exercised these skills in a senior management post for many years. The job that was provided was as Centres' Director for the Youth Board of the PCI, and so we came eventually to live in Lucan, where we have been made most welcome by a friendly, caring community.

What do we do at Lucan? Well, this centre was opened in 1987 as a place of

reconciliation and hope. It is a residential centre used regularly by groups of young people who come from all over Ireland, to participate in programmes which we organize here at the centre, or they can use their own. Part of the work comes under the umbrella of Nexus Ireland, which is a far-thinking and innovative reconciliation ministry of the Youth Board of the Church. Such a ministry gives us tremendous hope for the future of Ireland and for the young people of this country, North and South. We both feel that by showing Christ's love to ALL who come up Primrose Lane and by presenting our centre in a way that reflects that love, that we can be used in a very special way to create opportunities for young people to come to Christ — and what better way to live, than for Him.

Earlier this year the accommodation was extended further by opening two multi-purpose-built chalets. These increase the accommodation by at least twenty extra beds, and have been used extensively since their opening in February. They are lovely, and we would encourage ministers and their families to make use of them also — either for their church groups, or as respite for themselves — something which we all need from time to time. All told, we can accommodate 68 people. We employ an excellent cook/housekeeper, so meals can be provided for those who come.

We have just enjoyed one of the busiest seasons. We welcomed almost eight hundred young people to the outreach which is held annually at the centre. Summerfest is a real celebration and it is a real joy to see young people making friends and developing relationships with each other, and of course, with their Saviour. Often I sit at my word processor to hear young people singing at the tops of their voices 'Who's the King of Me? — I tell you, J E S U S is, He's the King of Me.' It is meat and bones to us, and personally we are so glad, even at our age, to be used in His glorious and wonderful service.

Summerfest was followed by our own summer camp. This was the first one ever held at the centre and run by the centre, and it will not be the last. Rev. Frank Sellar headed up the team, ably helped by young people from Lucan and as far away as Seattle, Washington state and D.C. What a wonderful thrill it was to welcome 45 young people from all over Ireland and to share with them the gospel of hope!

If you would like to know more about our work or indeed help us with a financial donation, large or small, please contact us at the Lucan Youth Centre, Primrose Lane, Lucan, Co. Dublin, or if you are in our area, please be assured

of a welcome.

Nexus Ireland is having a fund-raising concert in the RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin, on 6 November 1993, when Noel Tredinnick and the All Souls Musicians will perform. Diane Petherick and Laurence Whitehead will also participate.

Helen Kennedy

ABBEY

We reprint the two following extracts from the most interesting September issue of the Abbey Magazine:

Dolebusters (Abbey)

Dolebusters was first set up in Adelaide Road/Donore Presbyterian Church in 1987/88 as an unemployment resource centre and is a registered charity. Its main aims are laid down in a written constitution which can be summarised as to give guidance or assistance to unemployed persons.

Dolebusters in Abbey commenced on 9 March 1993 with the same constitution, and aims to assist the unemployed in the north centre city area. Under a scheme known as the Community Enterprise Development Project (CEDP) two personnel, financially supported by FÁS, attend each Tuesday and Thursday in Abbey during the hours 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. At this early stage of setting up Dolebusters in Abbey most effort has been expended in getting to know the area, its needs, the various community centres, the businesses in the area and letting these know of the existence of Dolebusters and its aims.

At present, assistance can be given to unemployed people in the preparation of their CV, in interview training, job creation and in providing Social Welfare information and guidance. This facility is available to all unemployed persons including members of Abbey. Further information can be obtained by ringing Dolebusters (Abbey) at 8725103 for an appointment or sending a FAX to the same number. Should any employer attached to Abbey or known to an Abbey member be seeking additional staff, they will get full co-operation from staff at the above number in supplying their needs. Should any Abbey member wish to be associated with this outreach project and offer assistance they will be most welcome indeed...

Ronnie Sloan

Talk on Presbyterian history

On Friday evening, 30 July, John Erskine of Stranmillis College, Belfast, gave a fascinating talk on Presbyterianism in Ireland. His survey was illustrated by numerous quotations from contemporary sources. Some of these extracts from memoirs and novels were read by Rev. Katherine Meyer. At the outset Mr Erskine dispelled the notion, held by many outside our Church, that Presbyterians are a dour, humourless lot. We were reminded that Calvin once remarked: 'We are nowhere forbidden to laugh'.

Mr Erskine stressed the essentially radical and egalitarian nature of Presbyterianism which at times in the past could mean being 'agin' the government' if not actually rebellious. The emphasis on education, the reluctant introduction of hymns and organs, the use of the common wine cup in Communion, the change from radicalism to conservatism were among the topics dealt with, using as evidence the writings of ministers, novelists and historians.

R.G.

ADELAIDE ROAD DONORE

Our children's holiday club, 'Shipshapes', during July proved to be very popular with the local youngsters. 60 came each day. This autumn we look forward to some key dates. On Sunday 17 October Harvest Thanksgiving will be at 11.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. Dr James Barton, PCI missionary in India, is to be our guest on Sunday morning 31 October, and morning worship on RTÉ Radio 1 is due to come from ARD on Sunday morning 28 November. We are honoured that the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt Rev. Dr Andrew Rodgers, will be our special preacher at the evening carol service on Sunday 12 December, and all are warmly invited to join with us on that particular occasion.

This year we are splitting Youth Club into two groups: one for 10-14-year-olds and the other for 15-plus, meeting on alternate nights. 'Sunday Special' continues to look after 36 of our younger children during the later part of morning service, led by 10 leaders on a rota basis.

We look forward to welcoming Christopher Kennedy as a volunteer helper this year with responsibility among our young people, students and Dolebusters.

Also, now that Diane Petherick is employed by the Irish Mission, we eagerly anticipate learning from her on a number of Sundays how to further develop our worship...to the praise and glory of God.

Frank Sellar

AGHADA AND TRINITY CORK

Apologies for missing the June 1993 edition of LINK-UP. Good Friday was marked by our evening service which we share with the Methodists and by the news of the unexpected death of Avrill Wagner. Avrill (née Cuthbert) came from Scotland to Cóbh where her father was manager of the dockyard. We offer our sympathy to her sisters in Clontarf and New Zealand and to her daughter Jeanette. We were saddened also by the sudden death of Hilda Kupey who was buried in Aghada beside her late husband Werner. Hilda's family in Germany gave a generous donation and we are glad that they hope to keep her house as a holiday home. Mrs Maisie Wilkinson died in June in St Brendan's House, where she shared a room with her sister Millie. Please remember Millie whose illness prevented her attending the funeral.

Mrs Irmgard Graeme-Cook visited us in June and we were privileged to have Dr Donald Kennedy to dedicate a memorial tablet to her husband Brian in Trinity. Children's Day on 13 June had an international flavour. Children made flags of various nations and we had special prayers in Aghada for countries where our missionaries work and in Trinity for the many countries represented in the congregation (Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Pakistan, United States and of course Ireland).

The summer was marked by the visit of our fourth summer outreach team under the direction of Steve Stockman. They ran a summer bible club, "Secret Agents" and a coffee bar, "The Unforgettable Spire". The "One Year Team" of the Youth Board also spent six weeks in Cork preparing for this outreach. Again we saw the opportunities for outreach and feel by contrast our inadequacy afterwards to minister on a long-term basis to many needy people. Tom Wilson, a student for the ministry, also gave invaluable help. We wish him and Daphne and family well as he approaches an assistantship in Kilbride, Co. Antrim. The hall at Trinity also accommodated a team from Voluntary Service International while they did maintenance work at St Luke's Home for the elderly.

Readers with Cork connexions may be interested to know that St Luke's Home

is planning to move next year to a new building just south of the river Lee near Blackrock Castle. Yes, this will cost a lot of money and Michael Lyons the Administrator would be delighted to send you information and receive donations! (St Luke's Home, Military Hill, Cork).

We are looking forward to the ordination to the eldership on Saturday 2 October of Norman Waugh who was brought up in Trinity and has now returned to his native city after many years in the printing business in Dublin. Norman was involved in Ormond Quay and Scots and in Bray congregations.

John Faris

ARKLOW AND GREYSTONES

Our beloved minister, the Rev. James Carson, is making a good recovery following recent surgery. He has spent two weeks with the Crammond family near Arklow and as we write is setting off for a break in sunnier climes to complete his convalescence. All our good wishes go with him; we pray for his safe return and trust he will soon feel fit enough to resume his labours in the Vineyard.

On 26 May, shortly before the appearance of the last issue of LINK-UP, the Presbytery Visitation Commission came to Greystones to meet the minister, ruling elders and committee of the congregation. The Rev. Charles McCurdy, Moderator of Presbytery, presided and constituted the court. Following an examination of the congregational records, an inspection of the church property and the interviewing in turn of the minister, kirk session and committee, with open discussion in each case, all present adjourned to the YWCA, Coolnagreina, for tea, after which the proceedings were brought to a close with prayer.

The entire congregation was much heartened by the Presbytery Visitation finding, which was read from the pulpit during morning worship on Sunday 5 September by the Rev. John D Woodside, minister of Kilkenny and Cahir. We all thank the Lord for and, with the Commission, rejoice in the spirit of unity and co-operation within both the congregation and church leadership. We are all much encouraged by the growing numbers attending both worship and Sunday Club. To God be the glory!

At this time of year we in Greystones always look forward to the Harvest Thanksgiving Service — both here and in Arklow. Those of us who have in

former years attended the Arklow service as visitors know that the hospitality there is legendary and that we are always assured of a most cordial welcome. And we are delighted to have the Arklow congregation, or as many of them as can travel at any rate, as our guests and to share fellowship with them when our own Thanksgiving Day comes around.

Baptism: 4 July 1993: Timothy John Blythman, son of Stephen and Hilary and grandson of Robert and June.

Departure: Mrs Irene Gray has gone to live in Dún Laoghaire. We wish her good health and much happiness in her new abode and surroundings.

BALLYMOTE

Our annual Motor Neurone Disease Sale took place on 26 May. Proceeds this year came to £2,500. We were delighted with this figure. Thanks to all who helped!

Our thanks also to Doreen and Jim Dornan and the Killinchy folk for having a very successful sale in their home on 12 June in aid of our church hall. With the proceeds we tiled the kitchen floor and bought lampshades and kitchen utensils. Our church hall and kitchen now look well.

On 23 May we had our first ever broadcast service from RTÉ. Members of Ballymote took part and Dr Mac Dermott conducted the service. We were pleased to have members of Ballina and Killala join with us.

On Sunday 4 July Dr Mac Dermott announced that they were leaving and going to Sandymount, Dublin. It was a big shock to us: he and Mrs Mac Dermott helped and supported the congregation in everything we did in the church and hall. We finally said farewell to them on Sunday 5 September. We pray that God will richly bless them in their new charge.

Edith Thorpe and Harriet Bell

BLACKROCK: ST ANDREW'S

The summer is coming to an end and we at St Andrew's look forward to the

autumn and winter activities. On 10 October we will once again hold our annual Harvest Festival Service. We will hold our Autumn Fair on 30 October.

Mr Garth McFarlane has been appointed as our new Works Committee Convener. Garth follows in the footsteps of his father, Mr Colin McFarlane, who was our works convener for many years.

This summer we decorated the minor hall and put up new curtains on the stage: these have already been paid for! Many thanks to all for their generosity.

Miss Nicola Cinnamond, one of our members, has just qualified as a physio-therapist. Having finished her studies at Poona in India Nicola went on to tour India and Thailand before returning to take up a post in Cardiff.

Death: It is with regret that we announce the death of Mrs Alice Howie on 25 May.

Marriage: We are pleased to announce the marriage of Mr Peter McDowell to Miss Esme Norris in Monkstown Church on 12 June.

Baptism: Jennifer Elizabeth Lowrie, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Lowrie, on 20 June.

BRAY: ST ANDREW'S

New Communicants received at Easter were Elizabeth Willoughby and Mark and Valerie Smithers.

Wedding

The first wedding in our church since 1986 was a very joyful occasion. Sheena, daughter of our late minister, the Rev. Alec Reid, married Mr Ben Granger. We were delighted to welcome Hazel Reid, the bride's mother, who was able to attend despite her recent illness. The reception was in a private house on Old Connaught Avenue, opposite the manse where Sheena grew up. The bride was given away by her brother David. Sheena and Ben are setting up home in Milan where they both teach English.

At Rest

31 August: Miss Amy O'Hara of 19 Rathclaren, Killarney Road.

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome back to St Andrew's Mr and Mrs Jim Gregg. Jim and Joan left us when Jim was transferred to Milford, Co. Donegal, as bank manager. Now they have returned to Kilmacanogue and we wish them a happy and active retirement.

Among the summer visitors to St Andrew's we were especially glad to see the Rev. James and Mrs Gordon with their family. Rev. Mr Gordon is minister of Glenwherry in the Presbytery of Ballymena. Our PWA has a special link of friendship with Glenwherry.

Another summer visitor was Ruth, daughter of Jim and Dorothy Beattie. Ruth is Professor of Biochemistry in Ball State University, Indiana, and is an elder in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in the city of Muncie.

Harvest

Our Harvest Thanksgiving services will take place on 17 October at 11.30 a.m. and 7.00 p.m., with the harvest supper after the evening service.

Ordination

A former member of St Andrew's, Mr Norman Waugh, who now lives in Cork, was ordained to the eldership in Trinity, Cork, on 2 October. Mr Campbell took part in the service as acting moderator of Presbytery.

Denis Campbell

CLONTARF

The Annual Children's Holiday Club was held from 12 - 17 July 1993. The Outreach Team consisted of 43 young people under the leadership of Mr Des Paul and Mrs Gillian Topping.

250 children were enrolled with 210 - 220 ranging in ages from 5 - 15 years attending every day from 11.00 a.m. - 2.30 p.m. There was also a number of evening activities for the older children and their parents and friends. These included ten-pin bowling, talent competition, barbecue on Dollymount beach, parents' evening, coffee morning and Bible study. A good week was had by all despite the unsettled weather and the fact that some of the groups had to be taken indoors which is not an easy task with so many children...The Team felt

that they gained more from the week than they gave and that God teaches us through the hard times as well as the good times.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday 10 October.

Valerie J Dagg

DROGHEDA

Harvest Service

The above service will be held on Sunday 17 October. The preacher will be the Very Rev. Dr John Thompson, recently retired as a professor in Union College, Belfast. Professor Thompson is a native of North Antrim and served as minister in Sandymount, Dublin, and Fortwilliam Park, Belfast. He was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in 1986.

The soloist will be Miss Jennifer Johnston, Rathfriland, a member of Hilltown Presbyterian Church.

Congregational Outing

A congregational outing took place to Doonaree Forest Park on 21 August. A good attendance enjoyed the attractions.

ERVEY

Baptism

Frazer, Jonathan James, son of Mr and Mrs George Frazer, on 19 September 1993.

Harvest Service

The above service will be held on Sunday 10 October 1993 at 3.00 p.m. Special music will be rendered by Mr R Haire and Mrs A Wylie from Newry. The preacher will be the Rev. John Hanson, BSc, BD, of Second Ballybay and Rockcorry Presbyterian Churches. Mr Hanson is a native of Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, and has served in Malawi as a foreign missionary. His period as assistant was in First Lisburn, whose minister is the Rev. R J G Gray, BA, BD, DMin, DD.

Diamond Jubilee

The Rev. C P A Logue, BA, minister of Kells and Ervey from 1948 to 1950, celebrates the sixtieth anniversary of his ordination as a minister of the Gospel this year. He began his ministerial career in Killala, Co. Mayo, and went to Fermoy and Lismore in 1941. After he left Ervey he was in charge of Second Newtownhamilton and Creggan and he finally served in Co. Donegal at Crossroads and Newtowncunningham. Mr Logue has two brothers in the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland — the Rev. R B Logue, senior minister of Ballygomartin, Belfast, and the Rev. S G M Logue, senior minister of Donemana, Co. Tyrone.

Matt Talbot Hall

20 August saw the official re-opening of the above community hall. The rededication was performed by the parish priest, Father Andrew Farrell, and the Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Charles McCurdy. There were several speeches by representatives of the social services, the local council and the unemployment section. There was a reception afterwards for those who attended. The Social Services Committee members are to be congratulated for the hard work they have undertaken in providing such a beautiful and comfortable setting for the older members of the community.

Charles McCurdy

KELLS, CORBOY AND MULLINGAR

Stated Supply

The three congregations are sad that, due to ill health, the Rev. R James Mattison has had to withdraw as stated supply.

Prize Giving

The annual prize giving in Corboy Sunday School took place on Sunday 11 July. The service was conducted by the convener in charge of the vacancy. Readings of Scripture were taken by Clive Forster, David Murphy and Valda Murphy. Valda Murphy played the organ for the first item of praise and the church organist, Mrs Florence Ferris, officiated for the rest of the service. Mr Charles Murphy and Mr J Ferris made the arrangements for the service. Thanks to all concerned were expressed by the Rev. Charles McCurdy.

Departure

Rev. Charles McCurdy spoke of the sorrow felt by the congregation at the departure of Mr and Mrs Wallace Henry, Elaine and Claire. They would be much missed for the contribution they had made during their stay. Their new home is at Ballyholme Road, Bangor, Co. Down, and they are wished God's blessing as they start a new chapter in their life.

Baptism

McCartney, Linda Andrea, daughter of Mr and Mrs Herbert McCartney, Moynalty, on 22 August 1993.

Voluntary Service Overseas

Miss Elizabeth Beattie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ferris Beattie, Navan, has gone to Zimbabwe for two years. Elizabeth, who teaches in Dundalk, will be setting up advanced level courses in education. Kells church wished her God speed recently.

Charles McCurdy

SANDYMOUNT: CHRIST CHURCH

The induction of our new minister, the Rev. Dr Robin Mac Dermott, took place on 15 September. We welcome Robin and Janet to the manse on Sandymount Green and wish them a happy and successful ministry among us.

On 25 July the centenary of the Girls' Brigade was marked by the unveiling of a plaque at the Presbyterian church in Sandymount, where the GB was founded in the hall attached to the church. Delegates from the GB all over the world attended the ceremony.

Denis Campbell